

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR

SUBJ: PM CARAMANLIS ON MONARCHY QUESTION

1. SUMMARY: PM CARAMANLIS REINFORCED HIS APPEAL TO CHIEF OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS TO ELEVATE PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON UPCOMING REFERENDUM ABOVE PARTISAN POLITICS WITH ADVICE TO NEW DEMOCRACY (ND) DEPUTIES TO REFRAIN FROM CAMPAIGNING FOR EITHER. HE URGED COMPLETE NEUTRALITY AS APPROPRIATE ND STAND BUT EMPHASIZED EACH DEPUTY IS FREE TO VOTE AS HE WISHES. MINISTER OF INTERIOR TOLD PRESS CORPS NOVEMBER 23 THAT ALL MEASURES ARE IN PLACE FOR DECEMBER 8 REFERENDUM AND VOTERS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH BROWN BALLOT FOR MONARCHY AND GREE FOR REPUBLIC. GOG ANNOUNCED IT WOULD PROVIDE EQUAL TIME ON RADIO/TV FOR BOTH AIDES, BUT GOVERNMENT ITSELF WOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL. KING CONSTANTINE'S EFFORTS ON HIS OWN BEHALF HAVE BEEN FURTHER DELAYED, WHILE ATHENS WEEKEND PRESS GAVE SUBSTANTIAL ATTENTION TO ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF PM CARAMANLIS' FIRST MEETING WITH NEWLY ELECTED NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTIES CONCENTRATED ON HIS REQUEST TO THEM TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLICIZING THEIR VIEWS ON MONARCHY/REPUBLIC QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ND POLICY. CARAMANLIS ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED EACH DEPUTY TO VOTE

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ACCORDING TO HIS CONSCIENCE BUT PARTY LINE WAS FULL

NEUTRALITY. PM STRESSED THAT MAJOR VICTORY AT POLLS LAST WEEK MEANT GREAT RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP WHILE HE REJECTED PRESS INTERPRETATION OF HIS REMARKS TO CABINET PREVIOUS DAY TO EFFECT THAT HE WAS ESTABLISHING AUSTERITY POLICY. PM TOLD CABINET MINISTERS THEY SHOULD INSPIRE CITIZENRY BY HARD WORK AND AVOID UNNECESSARY OSTENTATION OR SOCIAL EVENTS WHICH "RUN COUNTER TO SPIRIT OF FRUGALITY."

3. MINISTER OF INTERIOR C. STEPHANOPOULOS ISSUED RELEASE NOTING THAT ALL MEASURES PROVIDED BY ELECTORAL LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO GUARANTEE IRREPROACHABLE CONDUCT OF REFERENDUM DECEMBER 8. HE EXPLAINED BALLOT PAPERS WOULD BE BROWN FOR "CROWNED DEMOCRACY" AND GREEN FOR REPUBLIC AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SIDES WOULD BE PRESENT AT POLLING STATIONS. MINISTER STEPHANOPOULOS ADDED THAT FURTHER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WOULD APPEAR SOON COVERING ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF REFERENDUM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW REGIME. MEANWHILE REPORTS FROM LONDON INDICATE KING CONSTANTINE HAS POSTPONED HIS SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCES AND MESSAGE TO GREEK PEOPLE PENDING CLARIFICATION ON WHETHER HE HAS RIGHT TO APPEAR ON GREEK TELEVISION VIA VIDEOTAPE. PRESS REPORTED TODAY THAT NATIONAL RADIO/TV WILL CARRY TWO TEN-MINUTE SPOTS THIS WEEK AND TWO NEXT WEEK FOR BOTH PRO-MONARCHISTS AND OPPOSITION. NEWSPAPERS HAVE STATED THAT KING CONSTANTINE NOW SCHEDULED ADDRESS GREEK PEOPLE NOVEMBER 26 IN TEN-MINUTE MESSAGE THAT NATIONAL TV WILL CARRY.

4. PRESS INTEREST IN REFERENDUM MOUNTED OVER WEEKEND WITH NEWSPAPERS COVERING GOG DECISIONS ON CONDUCT OF REFERENDUM, KING'S REPRESENTATIVE LAYING WREATH AT POLYTECHNION MEMORIAL CEREMONIES, CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES OF BOTH SIDES AND SEVERAL EDITORIALS. ELLINIKON MELLON CLAIMED GROUP OF SIXTY ND DEPUTIES ARE ORGANIZING PRO-MONARCHIST CAMPAIGN, AND FIFTY-ONE PRIVATE CITIZEN GROUPS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. "ROYAL UNION" LEADER G. KOUROUKLIS ANNOUNCED HE WOULD LAUNCH MONARCHY CAMPAIGN WITH TOUR OF MACEDONIA WHERE REPORTEDLY TWENTY MONARCHIST CENTERS ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUNCTIONING. EDITORIAL COMMENT INCLUDED AKROPOLIS ANALYSIS WHICH CONCLUDED THAT ELECTORATE WILL CHOOSE DECEMBER 8 BETWEEN SWEDISH-TYPE MONARCHY AND FRENCH-TYPE REPUBLIC. AVGHI URGED ANALYSIS OF TWO DIFFERENT CONSTITUTIONAL FORMS BE PRESENTED TO GREEK PUBLIC BEFORE BALLOTING BUT PREDICTED MONARCHY WOULD BE IRREVOCABLY DEFEATED IN ANY EVENT. AKROPOLIS EDITORIAL RESEMBLED AVGHI'S IN POSING QUESTION WHETHER TYPES OF MONARCHY AND REPUBLIC SHOULD NOT

BE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED BEFORE REFERENDUM. OTHER PAPERS
FEATURE SAME COMMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO BE MORE SPECIFIC
IN DESCRIBING ALTERNATIVES, WHETHER RESEMBLING 1965
GREEK VINTAGE OR PRESIDENTIAL REPUBLIC STYLE OF DE GAULLE
OR PAPADOPOULOS. WHILE LEFTIST PRESS AND CENTER
NEWSPAPERS TA NEA AND TO VIMA APPEAR OPPOSED TO MONARCHY,
AKROPOLIS, ELEFTHEROS COSMOS AND TO LESSER EXTENT
KATHIMERINE SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD SUPPORT OR AT LEAST
A TOLERANCE OF MONARCHY. APOYEVMATINI AND VRADYNI APPEAR AS
YET UNCOMMITTED. ATHENS PRESS APPROACHES QUESTION FROM
VARIOUS POSITIONS EXCEPT FOR CALL FOR CLARIFICATION ON
BASIC ISSUE OF CONSTITUTIONAL FORMS. ESTIA WROTE THAT
PUBLIC IS BEING ASKED TO MAKE BLIND CHOICE DECEMBER 8.

5. WHILE ND POSITION IS STRICT NEUTRALITY, ALL OPPOSITION
PARTIES HAVE DECLARED AGAINST RESTORATION OF MONARCHY.
PASOK HAS ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN FOR REPUBLIC, AND GEORGE MAVROS
(AFTER MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS NOVEMBER 22) TOLD REPORTERS
HE AGREED WITH PM ON IMPORTANCE OF POLICY OF UNITY ON
CYPRUS AND EDUCATIONAL MATTERS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT,
CONCERNING FORM OF REGIME CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES WAS
ALREADY ON RECORD FAVORING REPUBLIC. GREEK COMMUNIST
PARTIES (EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR) HAVE ALSO DECLARED AGAINST
MONARCHY AND POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH PASOK IN ANTI-
ROYALIST CAMPAIGN. TRADITIONAL MONARCHIST STRENGTH--
PROVINCES, ESTABLISHMENT, ARMED FORCES (NAVY PARTICULARLY),
AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY--HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM, BUT
CAUTIOUS OBSERVERS SUGGEST REFERENDUM MAY NOT MATERIALIZE
INTO LOPSIDED AFFAIR FAVORING REPUBLIC AS MOST IN
ATHENS PREDICT.
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